

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

An Online and Broadcast Course for Graduate Credit and Professional Development

featuring

Major Educational Finance Topics Including Experienced-Based Lectures and Interviews with Practical Suggestions

The Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute (CEPI) announces the production of *Educational Finance*, an online course offered by the Virginia Department of Education for professional development in the Fall, 2002 and graduate credit in the Spring, 2003. The instructor is **Dr. William (Bill) C. Boshier, Jr.**, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and Education, VCU School of Education and Executive Director of CEPI. In addition, Dr. Boshier has been a former local superintendent and State Superintendent for Public Instruction.

The course consists of ten 30-minute lessons with accompanying text, readings, and multi-media information shared through “Blackboard Course and Portal Solutions.” The lessons are grounded in accounts of personal experience and include tested ideas and suggestions.

Each lesson focuses on educational leadership principles. A combination of lectures and interviews — focused dialogues — provides insight and stimulates thinking on how schools are financed and managed.

Graduate credit applicants may register through VCU for credit in the Spring semester. Fees are assigned by the providing institution or agency. For additional course and broadcast information contact www.cepi@vcu.edu.

Summaries of Lesson Content:

All lessons were produced with a grant and technical assistance from the Division of Technology, Virginia Department of Education in Richmond, Virginia.

- **LESSON #1 – INTRODUCTION**

Overview of course and discussion of the relationship of educational finance to school reform.

- **LESSON #2 – FUNDING AND EDUCATION**

Education as an investment and the sources of revenue are explored with high school principals and through lecture.

- **LESSON #3 – EQUITY, ADEQUACY AND TAXATION**

Significant court cases signaling change in school funding, interviews with Virginia policy experts, types of taxes and ways to generate money are explored.

- **LESSON #4 – FUNDING: LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL**

“Local control and ownership” are discussed with a county administrator, school and policy personnel.

- **LESSON #5 – COURTS AND SCHOOLS**

Two university faculty members – a professor/attorney and a CEPI faculty attorney – discuss changes in court rulings relating to educational finance and reform.

- **LESSON #6 – BUDGETING**

Through interviews with prominent Virginia local schools budget administrators, and instructor narration, facts about elements of budget, day-to-day practical notes, approaches to budgeting, and the budget cycle are presented.

- **LESSON #7 – RISK MANAGEMENT AND PROCUREMENT**

An interview with an experienced Virginia budget administrator, director and analyst, reveals specific examples and guidelines for administering a school budget.

- **LESSON #8 – PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION**

Issues from basic management to trends are explored with two personnel administrators in two large school districts. Charts and tables are used to display data on salaries.

- **LESSON #9 – SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUNDS**

Differentiation of cost accounting and accrual, school activity budget and district budget, legal and illegal accounting procedures are examined with a teaching school activity budget specialist.

- **LESSON #10 – EDUCATION REFORM AND FINANCE**

State reform and school finance trends and issues along with projections are major topics in this lesson.